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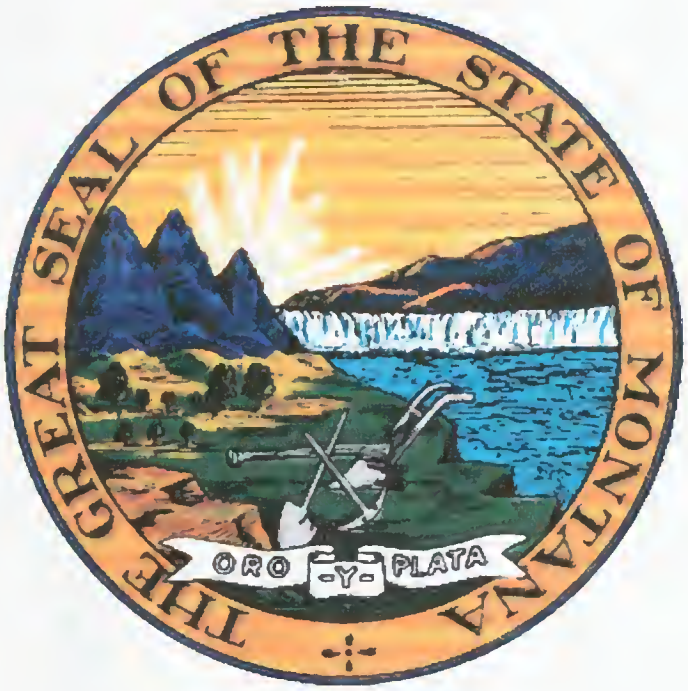

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STATE DOCUMENTS

MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana
Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman
James J. Flaherty, Commissioner UCC Building—P.O. Box 1728—Helena, Montana Fredric D. Moulton, Commissioner

FL. 283 HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD HELENA, MONTANA MAY, 1968

Non-Farm Job Total 3,000 Ahead of 1967 More Record Employment Months in Sight

April—Another Record Job Total—Paced by increasing seasonal job expansion in most major industries and the return of the copper industry to the employment fold, Montana's economy shows good promise for another record employment year. The April non-farm employment total, estimated at 187,600 at mid-month, was 3,000 above the same month last year. It was the fourth consecutive month this year to establish a record monthly job figure. Employment moved upward by 5,800 from March to April this year with mining and manufacturing payrolls accounting for 3,500 of this increment as miners and smeltermen returned to jobs after the 8½ month copper strike.

Job Expansion Well Distributed—In addition to payroll additions in mining and smelting, employment was up in five other major industries groups from March to April this year. Trade employment payrolls were at the head of the line with a job gain of 1,100 for the month. Next in order were construction and government, up 400 each; the service industries, up 300; and finance, insurance and real estate, up 100. Employment totals in transportation, communications, and utilities, at 17,500, did not change from the March figure.

Six Industries Post Over-The-Year Gains—Comparing non-farm job totals this April with the same month last year, all groups except manufacturing and mining had more workers on payrolls this year. Employment in government was 4,400 above last April. Trade employment was up 600 from a year ago with all of the gain at the retail level. Service industries show a job increase of 400 workers. Other employment advances were in finance, insurance and real estate, up 300; transportation, utilities and communications, up 200; and construction, up 100. Mining and smelting payrolls are now edging upward and should show higher totals when the May employment estimates are computed.

Some Jobs Go Begging—A common problem every year at this time of seasonal job expansion is the growing inventory of jobs for one reason or another which have no takers. A statewide roundup of current job openings unfilled include bookkeepers, stenographers, medical technicians, radio and television personnel, linemen, auto mechanics, timber fallers, tractor operators, and food industry workers. In addition, shortages of experienced farm and ranch help including single hands and couples usually start to develop early in the season and remain throughout the busy work season.

Copper Industry In Production—Things are gradually fitting into place at mines, smelters, the copper concentrator, the shops, and all facilities connected with copper mining and smelting. Job totals in metal mining are still below pre-strike levels. Three out of state mining firms have been recruiting in Butte those men who were not scheduled for immediate recall to Butte mining operations after the strike. So far, 100 Butte men have been accepted for these out of state jobs. Representatives of west coast shipyards will be in the Butte area late in May searching for skilled craftsmen. Employment wise, smelters at Anaconda and Great Falls have fared better. About 150 Butte men are now working at these two plants. In addition, the Great Falls plant has provided 160 more new jobs in the past month.

Jobs For Youth A Summer Venture—With school terms about over, thousands of high school and college youth are now starting to register for summer employment at the 23 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service. Some have had previous work experience while others are newcomers to the labor market. All are interested in jobs. The Montana effort will tie in with a nationwide jobs for youth campaign now in progress. Employment service personnel will join forces with employers, unions, government officials, civic and community groups in a concerted effort of job development for these young workers.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Mar. 1968	Feb. 1968	Mar. 1967	Mar. 1968	Feb. 1968	Mar. 1967	Mar. 1968	Feb. 1968	Mar. 1967	Mar. 1968	Feb. 1968	Mar. 1967	Mar. 1968	Feb. 1968	Mar. 1967
All Manufacturing	4.2	3.0	4.6	3.3	2.2	4.1	4.0	3.5	5.4	2.6	1.3	3.0	.7	1.4	1.4
Durable Goods	4.4	3.5	5.5	3.7	2.8	4.8	4.3	3.5	6.1	3.0	1.4	3.4	.3	1.1	1.2
Primary Metal	.4	1.3	5.2	.2	.6	3.7	2.9	.6	4.6	1.1	.3	3.5	*	*	*
Nondurable Goods	4.0	1.9	2.8	2.6	1.1	2.6	3.4	3.5	4.1	1.8	1.1	2.1	1.3	2.0	1.8
All Mining	3.9	7.0	7.6	1.2	2.1	3.3	2.9	6.4	8.3	1.9	1.5	4.5	*	3.0	1.1
Metal Mining	1.3	1.9	6.3	.4	.1	1.6	2.1	3.1	8.6	.6	.9	4.3	.1	.5	.7

*Less than .05

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Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for April

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—Economic trends in area gradually climbing upward after settlement of copper strike on March 31. Callbacks of smelter workers was on good schedule with some new hiring seen for May. Moderate job gains recorded in trade industries and at state institutions in area. Area logging activities still slow. Farm labor demand swings upward.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—Good Job trends spread over most industry groups with most activity in construction, trade, and manufacturing. Highway construction keeps 336 men occupied while various building projects totaling $26.4 million employ 400 workers. Increased job opportunities removed 356 from unemployment claim list in April. Steady farm labor demand reflected strong need for workers with irrigation experience.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—Jobless total reduced by labor demand in construction, manufacturing, and trade industries with the latter accounting for 40 percent of April job hires. Auto agency moved into newly completed $196,000 quarters work continued on new retail store, interstate highway bridges, college dormitory, and 20 new homes. Logging on unsteady basis due to bad mountain roads. Active farm labor demand to continue.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—Community on slow road of recovery after the 8½ month copper strike took a heavy toll of wages and business. 1,700 were back on mining payrolls on April 29th. Reactivation of copper concentrator put 100 on jobs at months end. Out of state mining companies recruited 100 miners for work in Idaho, Colorado, and North Dakota. More recruitment set for June including search for skilled craftsmen for west coast shipyards.

CUT BANK—April hiring in farm and industry exceeded year ago totals with ideal weather for outdoor work a contributing factor. Road and building construction in good progress. Prospects of new industry in Browning this summer will add to area economy. Agriculture faced with worker shortages expected to continue as season advances.

DILLON—Construction and agriculture most active forces in area economy. Work started on $490,000 college library-administration building. New 30 class room school in offing with $730,000 in bonds in completion process. Shortage of livestock workers and irrigators on the farm front.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—Seasonal job upswing in all industry groups with prevalence of good weather. Work began on new high school buildings in Glasgow and Opheim along with resumption of highway projects. Temporary shortages of cooks, waitresses, maids, and office workers developed during the month.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—Construction hiring dominated the April job scene. Three major construction companies in area, all working double shifts. Main street business on steady basis with shortages of cooks and waitresses prevalent. Sugar beet planting completed.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—Local economy exhibits good strength after settlement of copper industry strike. Worker recalls noted in most major industry groups. New hiring at smelter expected to take 100 additional men. Sharp job upswing occurred in trade establishments followed by more hiring in service groups. 209 farm job placements was twice the March total.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—April job trends seasonally active in most industries except logging still affected by spring break-up conditions. Trade volume keeps at fairly good levels. Farm field work delayed by wet ground. Potato sorting and shipping operations completed in March.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—Summer employment trends look good in construction, trade, railroads, and oil fields. Work now underway on $850,000 RR diesel shop addition. Several smaller projects coming up. Oil and gas drilling operations in area slated for increase. Farm labor demand expected to keep at good force; 72 placements made in April.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—Employment trends appear better this year; especially in the construction field. Work in progress on $800,000 senior citizens apartment complex; more than 100 workers on interstate highway jobs. Workers in short supply during the month included food industry personnel, mechanics, timber fallers, and sales people. Steady farm labor demand with some worker shortages.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Whitefish—There was both a positive and a negative side to the April employment scene. The credit side reflected increased hiring especially in trade, lumber manufacturing, and service industries. The debit side temporarily idled 550 construction workers because of a labor dispute. Logging gradually recovering after spring break-up period. Work in potato cellars and tree planting accounted for most agricultural activity.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—Industry job placements up 50 percent from year ago sparked by more construction activity and good trends in trade firms. Shortages of cooks and waitresses developed as business improved. Shortages of farm labor now current should find some relief when high school youth become available at end of school term.

LIBBY—Outdoor hiring curbed somewhat by wet cold weather during April. Employment, however, remained fairly stable in most groups. Labor dispute affected construction first half of month. $2 million high school contract soon to be let. Hiring started for

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Apr. 68	Mar. 68	Apr. 67	Mar. 68 to Apr. 68	Apr. 67 to Apr. 68
Civilian Work Force					
Total Employment	266.0	262.6	265.1	3.4	.9
Total Non-agricultural Employment	251.6	240.4	251.3	11.2	.3
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	216.3	209.8	215.0	6.5	1.3
Total Agriculture Employment	187.6	181.8	184.6	5.8	3.0
Labor Management Disputes	35.3	30.6	36.3	4.7	—1.0
Total Unemployment	.2	7.6	*	—7.2	.2
Percent Unemployed	14.2	14.6	13.8	—.4	.4
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.6	5.2	....	....
	....	3.8	3.5	....	....

*Less than 50

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	167.9	167.4	168.9	174.4	179.8	188.7	189.6	192.1	189.9	188.1	185.3	183.6	181.3
1966	173.9	172.6	174.2	180.2	185.4	195.6	198.2	199.2	195.8	191.2	187.6	186.9	186.7
1967	179.9	178.5	180.1	184.6	188.7	199.0	201.4	196.6	195.4	193.8	191.7	189.7	189.9
1968	181.0	180.4	181.8	187.6									

* Preliminary Estimate—

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for April

re-regulator dam contiguous to main Libby Dam. Trade and service job trends at good volume.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—Job uptrends appear in all industry groups except logging and lumber mills. Bad roads hamper logging and mills at reduced operations due to log shortages. Trade and service active as hiring continues along main street and at Yellowstone Park. Heavy demand for ranch hands with not enough workers to fill job orders.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—A nine inch April snow storm followed by periodic rains slowed oil field operations in Bell Creek area. No major construction active in local area but several small jobs employ all available workers. Trade, service, and agriculture providing new job opportunities.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—Heavy registration of students for summer work pushed new applicant file 35 percent over last month. Industry job placements show good increase over last month and last year with lumber industry hiring chiefly responsible. Shortages of skilled woods workers in evidence as month ended. Seasonal job openings good in trade, service, and agriculture.

POLSON—Area labor market trends show good summer promise. Lumber mills at full production and woods work active; demand for qualified workers continues in both. Slow construction trends expected to show more life later on. Farm labor demand at normal pace.

SHELBY — Unemployment dropped as good weather brought more jobs in construction and agriculture. Sheep shearing and tagging completed and crews left the area. More jobs on main street.

SIDNEY—Healthy economic trends cover whole community with all industry groups sharing in seasonal employment gains. Good weathr keeps construction at full force. Farm activity shows worker shortages, especially couples.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—Most woods workers back on jobs with some shortages of logging equipment operations in evidence. Mill employment keeps high levels. Trade and service volume good, but quiet job trends on the farm scene.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—Most building craftsmen and equipment operators now working for local contractors and government agencies. Work started on $1.5 million school. Main street hiring absorbed mainly female workers. Good demand for farm labor.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT Apr. 1968 (2)	Mar. 1968 (3)	Apr. 1967	Net Change Mar. '68 to Apr. '68	Apr. '67 Against Apr. '68
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	**187,600**	**181,800**	**184,600**	**5,800**	**3,000**
Manufacturing	**21,500**	**19,300**	**22,100**	**2,200**	**— 600**
Durable goods	**14,100**	**11,900**	**14,400**	**2,200**	**— 300**
Lumber and timber products	7,700	7,900	7,900	—200	— 200
*Primary metals	3,800	1,400	4,300	2,400	— 500
Other (4)	2,600	2,600	2,200	00	400
Nondurable goods	**7,400**	**7,400**	**7,700**	**00**	**— 300**
Food and kindred products	3,800	3,800	3,900	00	— 100
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,700	00	— 100
Petroleum refining	1,100	1,000	1,000	100	100
Other (5)	900	1,000	1,100	—100	— 200
Mining	**4,600**	**3,300**	**7,000**	**1,300**	**—2,400**
*Metal mining	2,300	1,000	4,500	1,300	—2,200
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	800	900	1,000	—100	— 200
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,500	1,400	1,500	100	00
Contract Construction	**10,300**	**9,900**	**10,200**	**400**	**100**
Contractors, building construction	2,900	3,000	3,500	—100	— 600
Contractors, other than building	3,700	3,200	3,300	500	400
Contractors, special trade	3,700	3,700	3,400	00	300
Transportation and utilities	**17,500**	**17,500**	**17,300**	**00**	**200**
Interstate railroads	6,800	6,800	7,100	00	— 300
Transportation except railroads	4,600	4,600	4,200	00	400
Utilities including communication	6,100	6,100	6,000	00	100
Trade	**44,100**	**43,000**	**43,500**	**1,100**	**600**
Wholesale trade	8,800	8,700	8,800	100	00
Retail trade	**35,300**	**34,300**	**34,700**	**1,000**	**600**
General merchandise and apparel	6,400	6,300	6,100	100	300
Food stores	5,400	5,300	5,500	100	— 100
Eating and drinking establishments	9,100	8,400	9,000	700	100
Automotive and filling stations	7,600	7,500	7,200	100	400
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	**6,800**	**6,800**	**6,900**	**00**	**— 100**
Finance, insurance and real estate	**7,400**	**7,300**	**7,100**	**100**	**300**
Services and miscellaneous	**27,900**	**27,600**	**27,500**	**300**	**400**
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2,900	2,800	3,000	100	— 100
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,200	00	— 100
Other (6)	22,900	22,700	22,300	200	600
Government	**54,300**	**53,900**	**49,900**	**400**	**4,400**
Federal	12,000	11,800	11,900	200	100
State and local	42,300	42,100	38,000	200	4,300
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	**24,300**	**22,700**	**23,500**	**1,600**	**800**
*Manufacturing	3,700	2,400	3,800	1,300	— 100
Contract construction	2,100	2,000	1,900	100	200
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,000	2,200	100	— 100
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,200	6,100	5,900	100	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,300	00	100
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,900	3,900	3,800	00	100
Government	4,900	4,900	4,600	00	300
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	**27,000**	**26,500**	**26,200**	**500**	**800**
Manufacturing	2,800	2,700	2,800	100	00
Contract Construction	1,700	1,600	1,600	100	100
Transportation and Utilities	2,900	2,900	2,900	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	8,400	8,200	8,100	200	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	5,100	5,000	5,000	100	100
Government	4,700	4,700	4,400	00	300

*Copper Strike Started 7/15/67

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 804 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,162 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN APRIL, 1968 AND APRIL, 1967

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Apr. 1968		Apr. 1967		Apr. 1968		Apr. 1967		Apr. 1968				Apr. 1967				Wk. 5-3	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1968	1967
Anaconda	109	36	136	53	264	91	201	58	40	15	55	15	111	15	126	47	157	116
Billings	600	129	588	223	2,037	669	2,288	732	586	310	896	337	482	302	784	268	677	824
Bozeman	299	47	255	44	266	79	341	97	174	50	224	47	157	70	227	39	76	188
Butte	329	106	408	78	1,354	474	914	174	40	19	59	31	100	38	138	43	1,127	353
Cut Bank	33	7	62	25	221	79	363	131	28	36	64	21	26	19	45	19	110	206
Dillon	74	26	94	29	143	36	96	14	37	110	147	61	43	114	157	57	50	63
Glasgow	72	19	60	14	126	27	140	17	106	23	129	31	73	20	93	23	90	83
Glendive	104	19	56	7	200	27	112	21	99	14	113	34	26	108	134	17	38	73
Great Falls	609	106	668	141	2,364	613	2,146	492	376	215	591	184	352	180	532	190	478	994
Hamilton	69	17	45	6	205	43	217	61	37	15	52	18	34	12	46	24	87	140
Havre	69	12	31	6	132	50	149	34	51	85	136	52	75	61	136	45	93	127
Helena	318	68	206	37	801	163	522	151	108	52	160	53	108	56	164	62	222	321
Kalispell	349	85	317	86	927	303	1,038	350	165	90	255	61	165	71	236	66	578	531
Lewistown	54	6	49	11	86	21	145	30	42	102	144	42	28	109	137	27	39	89
Libby	115	37	109	32	341	129	797	194	24	1	25	6	55	----	55	15	395	396
Livingston	87	14	75	14	176	40	255	50	78	35	113	38	63	32	95	45	83	133
Miles City	91	25	66	12	132	28	125	26	56	99	155	35	47	109	156	20	50	90
Missoula	643	155	708	151	1,548	411	1,636	474	302	47	349	107	258	38	296	106	351	529
Polson	59	15	62	16	146	37	196	47	68	23	91	28	43	17	60	26	63	99
Shelby	31	9	53	15	114	27	154	53	32	59	91	21	60	34	94	38	34	104
Sidney	64	11	44	4	85	10	100	12	60	42	102	20	54	29	83	24	32	73
Thom. Falls	25	7	30	5	70	42	176	64	20	----	20	10	21	----	21	7	83	92
Wolf Point	39	18	43	7	123	53	127	43	24	26	50	18	26	24	50	18	52	90
Billings YOC	351	6	364	11	796	13	828	26	176	7	183	9	130	10	140	15	----	----
TOTALS	4,593	980	4,529	1,027	12,657	3,465	13,066	3,351	2,729	1,475	4,204	1,279	2,537	1,468	4,005	1,241	4,965	5,714

*Includes 365 claims of the Fed. U.C. Program 339 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr. (1) 1968	Mar. (2) 1968	Apr. 1967	Apr. (1) 1968	Mar. (2) 1968	Apr. 1967	Apr. (1) 1968	Mar. (2) 1968	Apr. 1967
All Manufacturing	127.19	128.00	119.08	39.5	40.0	39.3	3.22	3.20	3.03
Durable Goods	126.95	127.30	117.11	40.3	40.8	39.3	3.15	3.12	2.98
Primary Metals	1/	*	117.71	1/	*	39.9	1/	*	2.95
Nondurable Goods	127.76	129.41	124.66	37.8	38.4	39.2	3.38	3.37	3.18
Food and Kindred Products	120.17	120.48	112.96	39.4	39.5	40.2	3.05	3.05	2.81
All Mining	117.12	114.70	133.90	36.6	35.4	40.7	3.20	3.24	3.29
Metal Mining	1/	*	133.33	1/	*	39.8	1/	*	3.35
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	117.49	117.49	116.43	37.9	37.9	38.3	3.10	3.10	3.04

1/ Strike over---insufficient data to complete preliminary April Hours and Earnings. (1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

UCC BUILDING
P. O. Box 1728
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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